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presence and absence of] and comparing the measured enzymatic activity to any activity measured in a blank containing the sample and a specific inhibitor of the enzymatic activity to correct for extraneous changes in measurement unrelated to enzymatic activity of the sample.

2. (amended) A method of measuring carboxypeptidase A levels in a biological fluid comprising:

(a) contacting a biological fluid with a carboxypeptidase A substrate in the presence and absence of a carboxypeptidase A specific inhibitor; and

(b) measuring changes in optical density resulting from hydrolysis of the carboxypeptidase A substrate by carboxypeptidase A in the biological fluid in the presence and absence of the carboxypeptidase A specific inhibitor, wherein the presence of the carboxypeptidase A specific inhibitor corrects for an extraneous optical density changes resulting from hydrolysis of the substrate or other assay reagents.

3. (amended) A method of diagnosing acute pancreatitis in a patient suspected of suffering from acute pancreatitis comprising:

(a) measuring carboxypeptidase A levels in a biological fluid from a patient by detecting changes in optical density resulting from hydrolysis of a carboxypeptidase A substrate by any